

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner DiRamio in the October 11 and 12, 2007 telephone interviews. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

As discussed during the October 11, 2007 telephone interview, the amendment to claim 1 does not change the scope of the claims and are made for clarity purposes only.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed during the October 11 telephone interview, claim 1 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0154248 to McGrew et al. (McGrew); rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,658,732 to Ebersole et al. (Ebersole); rejects claims 5 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0033700 to Takeuchi et al. (Takeuchi); rejects

claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,605,662 to Heller et al. (Heller); and rejects claims 9, 12, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McGrew in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0214200 to Thompson et al. (Thompson). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the thick area is separate from the thin area in top view." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 1-6.

As discussed during the October 12 telephone interview, McGrew fails to teach or suggest a thick area that is separate from a thin area in top view. Ebersole, Takeuchi, Heller and Thompson fail to cure the deficiencies of McGrew. Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the applied references. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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